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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

EXPLORING PERTH'S HIDDEN FOODIE GEMS

You can find them between dubious alleyways, concealed by age-old buildings. You can even find them in everyday suburbia, hidden within.

You might not draw a second glance at these bakeries or cafés, but that's what makes them special. Their familiar intimacy is what piqued our interest in putting these reviews together. These places add an element of excitement to an almost boring, mundane routine. So seek seclusion and stumble across something unexpected.



WILD BAKERY

1 COMMERCIAL STREET, SOUTH FREMANTLE WA

The name says it all. *Wild Bakery* is all about fermented sourdoughs, sweet tarts, chocolate croissants and quiches. A cozy little place off South Terrace, the bakery provides great staple foods, accompanied by a visually decadent décor and the wafting smell of fresh baked breads.

I first discovered *Wild Bakery* on a leisurely Sunday walk from South Beach. *Wild Bakery*, at first sight, would seem pretty ambiguous, but who can resist the medley of butter and flour and all things baked! I walked in and, to my surprise, whitewashed walls and gingerbread men greeted me at the

entry, making me feel all warm and fuzzy amidst the summer heat.

Baker Daragh began his culinary career at *Brioche Bakery*, which specialized in producing breads that were sourdough fermented. This makes *Wild Bakery* a one-stop shop for many people with a gluten intolerance.

Followed with good ol' fashioned word-of-mouth networking, *Wild Bakery* keeps its integrity and promises its customers equally nutritious and tasty food. And, with seasonal produce, I can't wait for *Wild Bakery's* infamous bronuts to make a comeback during the cooler months!



LINCOLNS 102

102 LINCOLN STREET, HIGHGATE WA

There's something charming and honest about *Lincolns 102*, in fact, it makes you feel as though you're at home with granny. This derelict café, that was once a deli, offers up scrumptious cakes and both a lunch and breakfast menu that changes daily.

Lincolns 102 can be found just off bustling Beaufort Street and provides an opportunity for locals to pick up their daily essentials, along with a daily dose of chitchat and familiarity. The café recently underwent a Cinderella transformation that left it somewhere

between a hidden object game and an episode of *Hoarders*.

The sense of community you get from *Lincolns 102* is reminiscent of the old corner store. The eclectic décor and the French-inspired garden furniture, certainly gives you a sense of warming satisfaction while you slice into a pie.

If you're looking to get away from the urban oasis of the CBD, this café is worth the extended walk from the main street, where inviting cakes await you under the glass domes.

PONY ESPRESSO

21 MAYFAIR STREET, WEST PERTH WA

What would you say about a visit to a unique coffee outlet hidden in a hundred-year-old stable? Well, that's what *Pony Espresso O* is all about. You might initially miss it, being tucked away behind tall, densely picketed fencing, but as soon as you walk in you can't miss its general non-fussiness.

While there are no food menus, you are certainly welcome to bring your own while glugging down a cuppa. There are two coffee machines at *Pony Espresso O* – the *Slayer Espresso* serves

up the strong shots, while the *Wega Vela Vintage* is for the more traditional types.

While most may not be aware of its existence, *Pony Espresso O* offers up an escape from the corporate grind. Owned and run by Garrett Walsch, you can see the determination this man puts into his coffee. It might not seem like the ideal location to some, but bring the right change with you and it becomes a one-stop shop for lovers of the bean!





THE VILLAGE BAR

10-531 HAY STREET, SUBIACO WA

With *Fox Sports*, fifteen beers on tap and plenty of dining space, what more could *The Village Bar* offer! Tucked away on Hay Street in Subiaco, this bar sits relatively close to Rokeby Road, but is distant enough to enable relaxation and comfort.

The very polished *Village Bar* is an unpretentious neighbourhood joint that definitely hits the spot either with drinks or meals. Decorated with lavish velvet couches, stylish brickwork and concrete floors, the abundant space makes it the ideal location for a large party!

Aside from the extensive drinks menu, *The Village Bar* places a heavy emphasis on local produce. Their menu offers up everything from simple bar snacks to edgy fish and chips in honey vodka batter! Their mixed platters are additional great and best for big groups.

Given its puzzling location, it would be easy to miss *The Village Bar* if you weren't looking for it. While difficult to determine whether this place is a replica of a quaint British or German watering hole, *The Village Bar* always offers up a truly memorable experience!



TOASTFACE GRILLAH

REAR 143 BARRACK STREET (IN GRAND LANE), PERTH WA

The humble toasted sandwich has always held a special place in my heart. Two slices of white bread sandwiched together by a single slice of Kraft cheese has always been my idea of a primary school brekkie. And now, as a grown-up, *Toastface Grillah* is the number one go-to for gourmet grilled toasties.

Occupying a disused backroom, and yard facing onto a once deserted laneway, you'll find *Toastface Grillah* down Grand Lane, between Wellington and Murray Street Mall.

If you haven't gotten the name reference yet – **Ghostface Killah** is a

rapper and original founding member of the 90s hip-hop group **Wu-Tang Clan** and, with the toasties these guys are serving up, ain't nobody gonna mess with them!

Some of your toastie options include apple and gouda, blue cheese with pear and lime chutney and the ham and cheese basic. Some options are appropriately named after famous fellows like *The Danny Zuko*, made with zucchini and brie.

Toastface Grillah is all-cool gourmet, without the obviousness. Satisfying your hunger with a toastie, then head back to the real world.